

NEWS (/WWW.USNEWS.COM/NEWS) / BEST STATES (/WWW.USNEWS.COM/NEWS/BEST-ST... / ALABAMA NEWS (/WWW.USNEWS.COM/NEWS/ALAB...

## The Latest: Ivey: 'We Have Lifted the Dark Cloud'

Alabama lawmakers begin the 2018 legislative session.

Jan. 9, 2018, at 8:24 p.m.

f (https://w

...



FILE - In this Nov. 17, 2017 file photo, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey speaks to the media in Montgomery, Ala. Ivey will take center stage on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, as she gives her first state of the state address since being catapulted to the governor's office nine months ago. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson, File) The Associated Press

AP

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Latest on the [Alabama \(/news/best-states/alabama\)](/news/best-states/alabama) legislative session (all times local):

7:20 p.m.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey in her first State of the State address said the state has lifted a cloud of controversy that enveloped Alabama government for much of the last two years. Ivey addressed lawmakers on the opening day of the 2018 legislative session almost exactly nine months after she was elevated to the governor's office in April by the sudden resignation of then-Gov. Robert Bentley.

Ivey told lawmakers that "wounds have started healing" and people's faith in government is being restored.

ADVERTISING



inRead invented by Teads

The GOP governor described a legislative agenda that included pay raises for teachers and state employees, averting a deferral takeover of state prisons and boosting rural broadband access.

Ivey began the speech with the quip "What a game!" in reference to the University of Alabama's championship win over rival [Georgia](#) ([/news/best-states/georgia](#)).

—

12:30 p.m.

Alabama lawmakers have begun the 2018 legislative session.

Lawmakers convened at noon Tuesday at the Alabama Statehouse to begin a legislative session that also coincides with an election year.

The session will be dominated by two major budgetary issues: prisons and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Alabama is facing a court order to improve mental health care in prisons. The state will have to pick up some of the cost of the insurance program if Congress does not renew funding.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey will give her first State of the State address on Tuesday night. Ivey became governor nine months ago by the sudden resignation of then-Gov. Robert Bentley.

In the speech, Ivey will discuss her session proposals, which include a pay raise for teachers and state employees.

—

12:05 p.m.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey is proposing pay raises for state and education employees.

The raises were included in the Tuesday budget presentation Ivey's finance director made to lawmakers on the opening day of the 2018 legislative session.

The numbers in the governor's proposed budget indicate that she is proposing a nearly 3 percent raise for state employees and over a 2 percent raise for education employees.

While, Finance Director Clinton Carter would not confirm the numbers, saying he didn't want to steal the "governor's thunder."

Ivey is expected to discuss the proposed raises in Tuesday night's State of the State address.

[news%2Fbest-states%2FAlabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_fb](#))  
[s%2FAlabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_tw&text=The%20Latest%3A%20Ivey%3A%20states%2FAlabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_rd](#))

The state finance director told lawmakers the budget outlook is "good news" but the state should "proceed with caution" because of looming issues in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and prisons.

Alabama lawmakers on Tuesday heard projections for the budgets they will write during this legislative session.

After years of lurching from crisis to crisis, Finance Director Clinton Carter said the two state budgets are in the best situation the state has seen in years.

However, Carter said Medicaid will need a significant increase in 2020 and the state will likely have to pick up at least some of the insurance program cost.

Carter said the state also will have to allocate more to prisons to comply with a court order to improve inmate health care.

—

2:39 a.m.

Alabama lawmakers return to Montgomery to begin the 2018 legislative session.

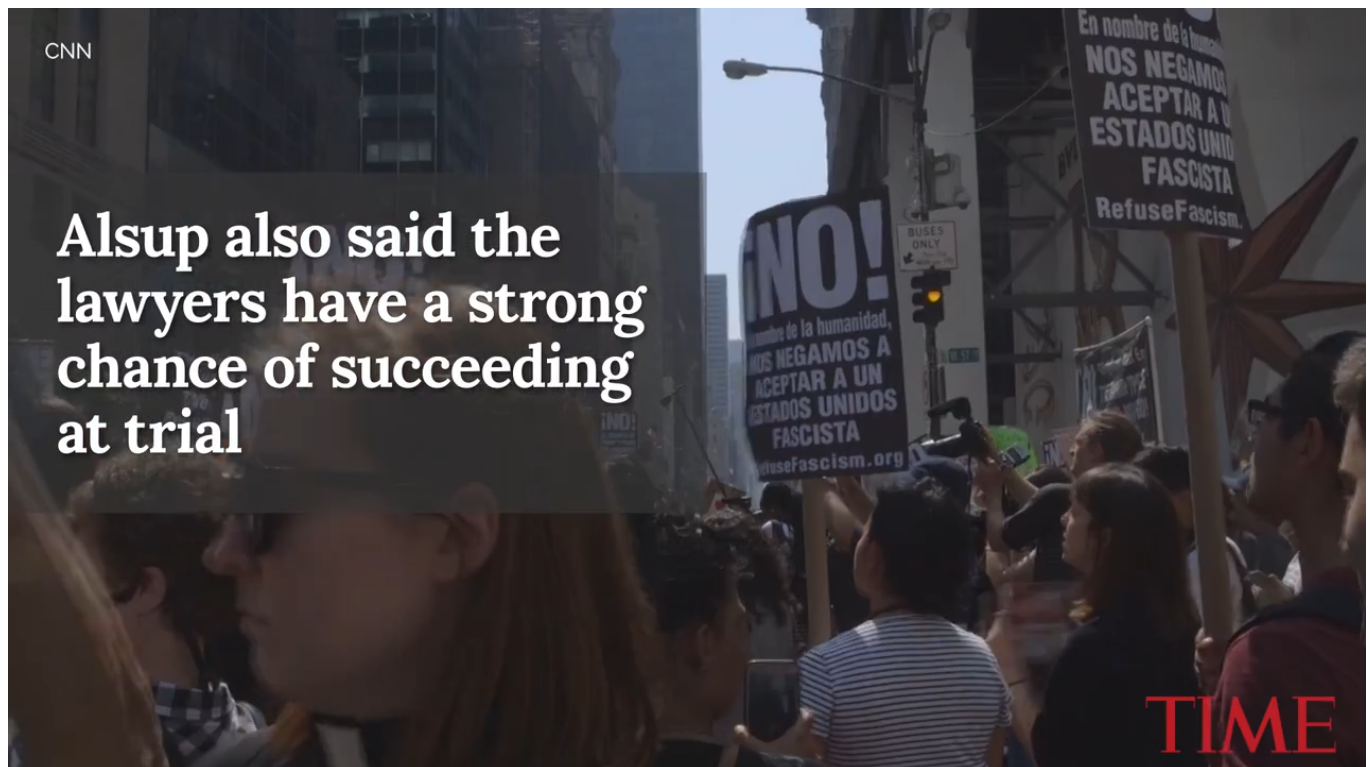
Legislators convene at noon Tuesday to begin a session under an election year backdrop. Lawmakers and state offices are up for election in 2018.

The session will be dominated by two major budgetary issues: prisons and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Alabama is facing a court order to improve mental health care in prisons. The state will have to pick up some of the cost of the insurance program if Congress does not renew funding.

Daycare regulations, a teacher pay raise and ethics reform are other issues that could come before legislators.

Gov. Kay Ivey will give her first State of the State address Tuesday evening. Ivey became governor nine months ago after the resignation of then-Gov. Robert Bentley.

Copyright 2018 The Associated Press (<http://www.ap.org>). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



[news%2Fbest-states%2Falabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_fb](#))

Tags: [Alabama \(https://www.usnews.com/topics/locations/alabama\)](https://www.usnews.com/topics/locations/alabama)

[s%2Falabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_tw&text=The%20Latest%3A%20Ivey%3A%20states%2Falabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_rd](#))

Vanguard

USNews BrandFuse

Ad Content by Vanguard

## What Does a Daily Cup ...

Saving a few bucks here, a few bucks there,  
may pay big over the long term.

## What Does a Daily Cup of Coffee Have to Do With Retirement? ([https://www.usnews.com/sponsored3?prx\\_t=bUkDAgZUYAPfMPA&ntv\\_fr](https://www.usnews.com/sponsored3?prx_t=bUkDAgZUYAPfMPA&ntv_fr))

Saving a few bucks here, a few bucks there, may pay big over the long term.

## Recommended Articles



### **10 States With the Most Labor Force Participation** **(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/these-10-states-have-the-highest-labor-force-participation-rates?int=news-rec>)**

Casey Leins

(<https://www.usnews.com/topics/author/casey-leins>) | Nov. 29, 2017

These are the states with the largest share of people either employed or looking for work.

(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/these-10-states-have-the-highest-labor-force-participation-rates?int=news-rec>)

[news%2Fbest-states%2FAlabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_fb](#)  
[s%2FAlabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_tw&text=The%20Latest%3A%20Ivey%3A%20states%2FAlabama%2Farticles%2F2018-01-09%2Fthe-latest-budget-outlook-mix-of-good-news-and-warnings%3Fsrc=usn\\_rd](#)

**Best States for the New Economy**  
**(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-best-states-for-the-new-economy?int=news-rec>)**



[the-new-economy?int=news-rec\)](#)

Gaby Galvin

(<https://www.usnews.com/topics/author/gaby-galvin>) | Nov. 6, 2017

A new report ranks states on how well they are equipped to benefit from the economy of the future.

(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-best-states-for-the-new-economy?int=news-rec>)

### **Former Employee Says He Intends to Sue Portland Schools (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/oregon/articles/2018-01-10/former-employee-says-he-intends-to-sue-portland-schools?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

A former Portland Public Schools employee sent the district a notice that he intends to sue, claiming the school board investigated him without a public vote.



### **Minot Schools, Company Settle Lawsuit Over Flood Cleanup (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/north-dakota/articles/2018-01-10/minot-schools-company-settle-lawsuit-over-flood-cleanup?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

The Minot Public School District has settled a lawsuit filed by a company over unpaid cleanup expenses resulting from the 2011 Souris River flood.

### **Father of Spokane Valley Councilwoman Loses City Hall Job (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/washington/articles/2018-01-10/father-of-spokane-valley-councilwoman-loses-city-hall-job?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

A Spokane city clerk has been fired after an internal human resources investigation found he used public resources for campaign activities while his daughter competed for a Spokane Valley City Council seat.

### **Victims of Eastern Missouri Crash Were 2 Army Reservists (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/missouri/articles/2018-01-10/victims-of-eastern-missouri-crash-were-2-army-reservists?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

Two young women killed while trying to get their stalled vehicle off an eastern Missouri roadway were Army reservists.



**Police Officer Cleared of Any Criminal Liability in Shooting (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/north-carolina/articles/2018-01-10/police-officer-cleared-of-any-criminal-liability-in-shooting?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

Prosecutors say a police officer in North Carolina who fatally shot a man during an attempted undercover drug purchase has been cleared of any criminal liability.

**Man Indicted on Murder Charges in Death of Girlfriend's Baby (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/ohio/articles/2018-01-10/man-indicted-on-murder-charges-in-death-of-girlfriends-baby?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

An Ohio man suspected of killing his girlfriend's 11-month-old son who was found unresponsive in a bathtub has been indicted on charges including aggravated murder.



**Former State Rep. Barnes Running for Lieutenant Governor (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/wisconsin/articles/2018-01-10/former-state-rep-barnes-running-for-lieutenant-governor?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

Former Democratic state Rep. Mandela Barnes, of Milwaukee, has officially launched his campaign for lieutenant governor.

**Autopsy: North Carolina Inmate Had Meth in Her System (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/north-carolina/articles/2018-01-10/autopsy-north-carolina-inmate-had-meth-in-her-system?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 10, 2018

An autopsy shows a woman's death in a North Carolina jail was caused by methamphetamine poisoning.

Load More




Best States is an interactive platform developed by U.S. News for ranking the 50 U.S. states, alongside news analysis and daily reporting. The platform is designed to engage citizens and government leaders in a discussion about what needs improvement across the country. The data was provided by McKinsey & Company's Leading States Index.

[Rankings \(/news/best-states/rankings\)](#)

[Methodology \(/news/best-states/articles/methodology\)](/news/best-states/articles/methodology)

[FAQ \(/news/best-states/articles/frequently-asked-questions\)](/news/best-states/articles/frequently-asked-questions)

 [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/usnews\)](https://twitter.com/usnews)

 [Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/usnewsandworldreport\)](https://www.facebook.com/usnewsandworldreport)

Copyright 2017 © U.S. News & World Report L.P. [Terms and Conditions \(https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms\)](https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms)

[Privacy Policy \(https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms#privacy\)](https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms#privacy)